Point Foundation

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 30, 1997

The meeting was called to order by David Katz, President, at 7:20 p.m., Thursday, January 30, 1997 at the Falkirk Cultural Center in San Rafael.

Present from the Board: Ty Cashman, Jerry George, David Katz, Wade Rose, Michael Stone, Peter Warshall.

Absent: Mayumi Oda.

Board Membership. The board met Rachna Sachasinh, and discussed her interest and possible roles on the board. It also reviewed a résumé from Danica Remy.

The board agreed to meet as soon as possible after February 11 (when Mayumi Oda and Claire Greensfelder will return to the area). At that time, it will vote on adding Rachna and Danica, as well as Claire if she wishes to be considered. Between now and then, board members with additional questions for Rachna, Danica or Claire were urged to contact them.

Editorial Update. Peter described work on the major articles for the revival issue. He noted that the greatest problem in firming up a schedule remains our inability to find an art director who meets our standards and is available on *WER*'s schedule and conditions. He has leads on more people whom he will interview in the next week.

Clarification of Responsibilities and Authority. The board discussed the need for clarity about questions of staff authority as we bring together a new staff. It agreed in principle that the editor and the publisher/business manager should collaborate on areas that overlap between the editorial and business realms, but that Peter, as editor, should have final staff authority for decisions concerning at least the first, and perhaps the second, issue. The board agreed to take up contract particulars in executive session at the conclusion of the rest of the meeting.

Fund-raising. The board agreed that David Katz, as board president, should oversee fund-raising for the immediate future. A line item for fund-raising expenses will be included in the budget to be jointly presented by the editor and publisher/business manager.

Publisher-Business Manager. Jerry moved, Wade seconded, that the board offer a position to Alexander Gault. The motion passed unanimously. The

board agreed to move into executive session to discuss contract and negotiation particulars.

Point's Use of Language. Peter suggested that board and staff begin looking for some less military-sounding equivalents to phrases such as "mission statement," "chief of staff" and "saturation bombing of enemy installations." All agreed.

Mike and Peter departed, and the board convened in executive session.

Executive Session [minutes by Ty Cashman]. The remaining board members discussed Peter Warshall's proposal that the board should determine that Peter be able to decide questions that lie in the overlap between the editorial mandate and the business/publishing mandate for the next two quarters.

It was noted that in all magazines there is tension between the mandate of the publisher for the fiscal viability of the magazine and that of the editor to implement his/her editorial vision. It was also stressed that a small magazine like ours operates best with a high degree of cooperation and sharing of responsibility. Hierarchy and levels of authority begin to be important in a larger organization.

However, at Peter's request, it was decided that for the initial period, not more than six months, the board would accord Peter the authority of decision in areas where the publishing/business mandate overlaps with the editorial mandate and when a compromise or collaborative solution cannot be arrived at.

The particular case that was considered was the case of a number of pages of advertising, location of ads and harmony of design of ads with editorial design.

The board decided, regarding the budget, that the publisher will be responsible for creating the budget, in consultation with the editor, and both the editor and publisher will present the budget to the board for approval. [End of executive session minutes by Ty.]

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael K. Stone
Secretary